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Senate

The Senate met at 9:30 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. THURMOND).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Right Reverend John B. Cairns, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, will give the prayer.

PRAYER

The guest chaplain, Rt. Rev. John B. Cairns, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Edinburgh, Scotland, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray:

Loving God, through Your love the world was formed, by Your love it is sustained, in Your love is its life. There is a color, richness, and variety throughout Your creation that brings a response of wonder and praise, of thankfulness for so many gifts.

We give thanks for the unquenchable desire for liberty and justice sown in the hearts of women and men throughout the world, for the heartfelt aspiration for peace in individuals and nations, and that, though many wrong turnings are taken, there is still a road of hope ahead.

We acknowledge with thanksgiving the many contributions of this Nation toward the world's well-being: its welcome and defense of the weak and oppressed, its sacrifice in the interests of freedom for those beyond its shores, its inventiveness and its culture, a developing blend of differing traditions and understandings.

We pray for all in authority and government, particularly the Senators as they fulfill the call to leadership. May they exercise their power with wisdom and compassion and so contribute to the coming of that day when, for this and all nations, every way shall be a way of gentleness and every path a path of peace.

Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable MIKE CRAPO, a Senator from the State of Idaho, led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CRAPO). The distinguished majority leader is recognized.

NATIONAL TARTAN DAY

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, today I rise to commemorate the second anniversary of National Tartan Day. I will be assisting those who do not have on their plaids, their Tartans, during the day to make sure you have one for your lapel—if not around your neck. We welcome our special guest chaplain in the Senate, the Right Reverend John Cairns, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It is my understanding that the office of Moderator is the highest honor that the Church of Scotland can bestow on a minister. The Moderator has had a distinguished career in the ministry, and we are truly privileged to have him as our guest for today's Tartan Day activities.

I remind my colleagues that the resolution which established National Tartan Day was Senate Resolution 155. It passed by unanimous consent on March 20th of 1998. As an American of Scottish descent, I appreciate the efforts of individuals, clan organizations, and other groups such as the Scottish Coalition, who were instrumental in generating support for the resolution. These groups have worked diligently to foster national awareness of the important role that Americans of Scottish descent have played in the progress of our country.

The purpose of National Tartan Day is to recognize the contributions that Americans of Scottish ancestry have made to our national heritage. It also recognizes the contributions that Americans of Scottish ancestry continue to make to our country. National Tartan Day is an opportunity to pause and reflect on the role Scottish Americans have played in advancing democracy and freedom. They have helped shape this Nation. Their contributions are innumerable. In fact, I myself was surprised to learn that three-fourths of all American Presidents can trace their roots to Scotland.

In addition to recognizing Americans of Scottish ancestry, National Tartan Day reminds us of the importance of freedom. It honors those who strived for freedom from an oppressive government on April 6, 1320. It was on that day that the Declaration of Arbroath, the Scottish Declaration of Independence, was signed. This important document served as the model for America's Declaration of Independence.

In demanding their independence from England, the men of Arbroath wrote, "We fight for liberty alone, which no good man loses but with his life." These words are applicable today to the heroism of our American veterans and active duty forces who know the precious cost of fighting for liberty.

Senate Resolution 155 has served as a catalyst for the many States, cities, and counties that have passed similar resolutions recognizing the important contributions of Scottish Americans.

I hail originally from Carroll County, MS, where the neighborhood was made up of Watsons, my mother's family; McCains, Senator JOHN MCCAIN's family; McCalebs, McLeans, McKellys, and the list goes on and on. Most of them were "Macs." I don't know how the Watsons got in there.

I thank all of my colleagues who supported this resolution in the past and who helped to remind the world of the

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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stand for liberty taken on April 6—almost 700 years ago—in Arbroath, Scotland. A call for liberty which still echoes through our history and the history of many nations across the globe.

It has been my hope that this annual event will grow in prominence each year, similar to St. Patrick's Day and Columbus Day, and the ceremonies and activities taking place today and over the next few days demonstrate that these goals are coming to fruition. I believe April 6 can also serve as a day to recognize those nations that have not achieved the principles of freedom which we hold dear. The example of the Scotsmen at Arbroath—their courage—their desire for freedom—serves as a beacon to countries still striving for liberty today.

SCHEDULE

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, the Senate will resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 101, the budget resolution. By a previous order, there will be two back-to-back votes beginning at 10:30 a.m. The vote on the Byrd amendment will be the first, to be followed by a vote on the Roth amendment. Following the votes, the Durbin amendment regarding tax cuts will be the pending amendment.

For the information of all Senators, the so-called vote-arama—and I hope it will not rise to that level; maybe it will just be a few votes we will have to take one after the other—is expected to begin at some point this evening. I do want to emphasize, though, unless we are successful, on both sides of the aisle—let me say, Senator REID has been working very hard on the Democratic side of the aisle. They have a reasonably low number of amendments still pending. We hope to reduce the number on this side of the aisle, too. We should be able to determine by late this afternoon whether we can finish tonight or we will go over to tomorrow. I think we need to go ahead and tell our colleagues they should plan on being in and having votes in the morning because at this point, with some 60 amendments pending, I do not see how we can finish it tonight by any kind of reasonable hour.

I will stay in touch with Senator DOMENICI and Senator LAUTENBERG, the floor managers, and Senator REID and Senator NICKLES on our side, to assess the additional time that might be needed. Senators should adjust their schedules accordingly.

I know there is an event tonight, a dinner. But we can finish tonight or we can finish tomorrow, or whatever it takes. We have to complete our work. There are only about 8½ hours remaining of time, so we should be able to finish that all right today. The remainder of the time will be determined by how many amendments we have remaining.

I will be glad to yield to Senator DOMENICI.

Mr. DOMENICI. Let me just verify, as the one who is working with these

amendments, Senators should not assume it is very likely that we finish tonight. I reported that to the leader earlier this morning. I do not know how many amendments are pending on the other side. We are working with our people who have about 31 amendments, most of them sense-of-the-Senate amendments. I will give my colleague that list soon and see if he can help us. I will work at it and talk some Senators into understanding they would not have to offer them; they could offer them some other time when the Senate is considering another matter.

If you just look at 8½ hours plus whatever it is going to take for half those amendments in vote-arama, I assume we will be in tomorrow.

Mr. LOTT. I have been urging Senators, and I know Senator DASCHLE has also, to prepare to be in session on this Friday, knowing the budget resolution was headed for this date for at least a couple of weeks. So we should proceed with that in mind. If we get a lot of co-operation and something could be worked out, that would be different, but I do not see how we can predict anything at this point but having votes on Friday morning.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADERSHIP TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

FISCAL YEAR 2001 BUDGET— Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will now resume consideration of S. Con. Res. 101, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (S. Con. Res. 101) setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal years 2001 through 2005 and revising the budgetary levels for fiscal year 2000.

Pending:

Stevens amendment No. 2931, to strike certain provisions relating to emergency designation spending point of order.

Stevens amendment No. 2932, to strike certain provisions to congressional firewall for defense and nondefense spending.

Byrd/Warner amendment No. 2943, to express the sense of the Senate on the continued use of Federal fuel taxes for the construction and rehabilitation of our Nation's highways, bridges, and transit systems.

Roth amendment No. 2955, to strike the revenue assumption for Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) receipts in fiscal year 2005.

Robb amendment No. 2965, to reduce revenue cuts by \$5.9 billion over the next 5 years to help fund school modernization projects.

Durbin amendment No. 2953, to provide for debt reduction and to protect the Social Security trust fund.

AMENDMENT NO. 2953

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The pending amendment is the Durbin amendment, amendment No. 2953. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. The minority yields 20 minutes off the resolution to the Senator from Illinois.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Illinois is recognized for 20 minutes, with the time coming off the resolution.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator REID and Senator LAUTENBERG for yielding me this time.

The amendment I have offered is a straightforward opportunity for Members of the Senate to go on record in reference to the proposed tax cut by George W. Bush, the nominal candidate for President on the Republican side.

The reason I am offering this amendment is I believe it offers a clear choice to the Members of the Senate and certainly to the people of this Nation. Every one of us understands we have been going through a period of unprecedented prosperity in America. In fact, I believe we have set records in terms of the period of economic growth without recession. This is not an accident. It is by design of an administration that has been determined to continue to bring Federal spending under control, to keep interest rates manageable, and to encourage growth in the economy. This policy of the administration is complemented by the policies of the Federal Reserve Board under Chairman Alan Greenspan.

We are now at an unusual point in our history where we are considering the possibility of surpluses. That is something that would have been unthinkable a few years ago in Washington when we were drowning in red ink with deficit after deficit piling on to our national debt. It reached such a point of desperation that a proposal was made in the Congress to amend the Constitution of the United States and give to the Federal judiciary the power to rein in the spending of Congress.

It was an unprecedented transfer of power to the judiciary away from the legislative branch of Government. Some people were so despondent and so desperate, they were prepared to back such a constitutional amendment for a balanced budget. It is hard to imagine that was only about 4 years ago.

Today in the course of debating the budget resolution, our focus is the use of the surplus, the revenues we will generate from our economy far and above what is necessary for the needs of Government and current programs. There is a difference of opinion about what to do with this surplus.

On the Democratic side, we believe the first priority should be the reduction of our national debt. We collect each day in America \$1 billion in taxes from individuals, businesses, and families, and that money is used for the sole purpose of paying interest on our national debt. That \$1 billion does not educate a child; it does not build a road; it does not make America any safer. It pays interest on debt, a debt primarily held by foreign bond holders.

We believe on the Democratic side that our first priority should be to